

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

ELECTRONIC CASE FILING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Definitions.

1.1 "Electronic Filing System" refers to the court's automated system that receives and stores documents filed in electronic form. The program is part of the CM/ECF (Case Management/Electronic Case Files) software which was developed for the Federal Judiciary by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

1.2 "Filing User" is an individual who has a court-issued login and password to file documents electronically.

1.3 "Notice of Electronic Filing" is a notice automatically generated by the Electronic Filing System at the time a document is filed with the system, setting forth the time of filing, the name of the party and attorney filing the document, the type of document, the text of the docket entry, the name of the party and/or attorney receiving the notice, and an electronic link (hyperlink) to the filed document, which allows recipients to retrieve the document automatically.

1.4 "PACER" (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) is an automated system that allows an individual to view, print and download court docket information over the internet.

1.5 "PDF" refers to Portable Document Format. A document file created with a word processor, or a paper document which has been scanned, must be converted to portable document format to be filed electronically with the court. Converted files contain the extension ".pdf".

1.6 "Proposed Order" is a draft document submitted by an attorney for a judge's signature. A proposed order shall accompany a motion or other request for relief as an electronic attachment to the document.

1.7 "Technical Failure" is defined as a malfunction of court owned/leased hardware, software, and/or telecommunications facility which results in the inability of a Filing User to submit a filing electronically. Technical failure does not include malfunctioning of a Filing User's equipment.

2. Scope of Electronic Filing.

All civil, criminal and miscellaneous cases shall be assigned to the Electronic Filing System. Except as expressly provided herein or by order of court, or in exceptional circumstances including technical failures, a Filing User shall electronically file all documents required to be filed with the court.

The filing of initial papers may be accomplished either electronically under procedures outlined in the court's ECF User Manual or traditionally on paper. An initiating document submitted on paper must be accompanied by a disk or CD-Rom containing the document in PDF format. In a case removed to the federal court, parties are required to provide electronic copies of all documents previously filed in the state court. Service of the summons and complaint must be made under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4.

An attorney who is not a Filing User within six months after the effective date of this Standing Order must show to the District Judge who chairs this court's "Information /Technology Committee", cause to file and serve pleadings and other papers in the traditional manner. A party who is not represented by counsel may file papers with the clerk in the traditional manner, but is not precluded from filing electronically.

3. Eligibility, Registration, Passwords.

An attorney admitted to the Bar of this court, including an attorney admitted *pro hac vice*, may register as a Filing User by completing the prescribed registration form (See Exhibit A) and submitting it to the clerk. Registration as a Filing User constitutes consent to electronic service of all documents as provided in this order in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

A person who is a party to an action who is not represented by an attorney may register as a Filing User in the Electronic Filing System solely for purposes of the action. If during the course of the action the person retains an attorney who appears on the person's behalf, the attorney must advise the clerk to terminate the person's registration as a Filing User upon the attorney's appearance.

When registering, an individual must have an established PACER account and certify that ECF training has been completed. An individual may register more than one Internet e-mail address. Once the registration is processed by the clerk, the Filing User will receive notification of the user login and password. A Filing User shall protect the security of the User's password and immediately notify the clerk if the Filing User learns that the password has been compromised.

Once registration is complete, a Filing User may not withdraw from participation in the Electronic Filing System except by leave of court.

Once registered, a Filing User shall be responsible for maintaining his/her account,

including, but not limited to change of address, firm, phone number, credit card information, email notification address, etc.

4. Consequences of Electronic Filing.

Electronic transmission of a document to the Electronic Filing System in accordance with this order, together with the transmission of a Notice of Electronic Filing from the court, constitutes filing of the document for all purposes of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Local Rules of this court, and constitutes entry of the document on the docket kept by the clerk under Fed.R.Civ.P. 58 and 79, and Fed.R.Crim.P. 49 and 55.

When a document has been filed electronically, the official record of that document is the electronic recording as stored by the court, and the filing party is bound by the document as filed. A document filed electronically is deemed filed on the date and time stated on the Notice of Electronic Filing from the court.

The fact that a party files a document electronically does not alter the filing deadline for that document. Electronic filing must be completed before midnight Eastern time in order to be considered timely filed that day. In accordance with Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 45©) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, service by electronic means is treated the same as service by mail for the purposes of adding three (3) days to the prescribed period to respond.

5. Entry of Court Orders and Related Papers.

A document entered or issued by the court will be filed in accordance with this Order and such filing shall constitute entry on the docket kept by the clerk under Fed.R.Civ.P. 58 and 79, and Fed.R.Crim.P. 55.

All signed orders will be filed electronically by the court or court personnel. An order filed electronically without the original signature of a judge shall have the same force and effect as if the judge had affixed a signature to a paper copy of the order and the order had been entered on the docket in a conventional manner.

A Filing User submitting a document that requires a judge's signature shall submit the document as an electronic attachment to a motion or other request for relief in accordance with the procedure for a "Proposed Order" as outlined in the court's ECF User Manual.

6. Notice of Court Orders and Judgments.

Immediately upon the entry of an order or judgment in an action, the clerk will transmit to Filing Users in the case, in electronic form, a Notice of Electronic Filing. Electronic transmission of the Notice of Electronic Filing constitutes the notice required by Fed.R.Civ.P. 77(d) and Fed.R.Crim.P. 49©). The clerk must give notice in paper form to a person who has not consented to electronic service.

7. Attachments and Exhibits.

A Filing User must submit in electronic form all documents referenced as exhibits or attachments in accordance with the court's ECF User Manual, unless otherwise ordered by the court. A Filing User shall submit as exhibits or attachments only those excerpts of the referenced documents that are directly germane to the matter under consideration by the court. Excerpted material must be clearly and prominently identified as such. Filing Users who file excerpts of documents as exhibits or attachments under this rule do so without prejudice to their right to timely file additional excerpts or the complete document. Responding parties may timely file additional excerpts or the complete document that they believe are/is directly germane.

8. Sealed Documents.

A document subject to a sealing order must be filed in the traditional manner on paper in a sealed envelope marked "sealed" accompanied by a disk or CD-ROM containing the document in PDF format. Only the motion to file a document under seal may be filed electronically, unless prohibited by law. The order of the court authorizing the filing of document(s) under seal may be filed electronically, unless prohibited by law. After the filer receives court approval to file a document under seal, it is the filer's responsibility to present the document to the clerk's office for filing in the traditional manner on paper in a sealed envelope marked "sealed" and with appropriate court and case identifying information, accompanied by a disk or CD-ROM containing the document in PDF format.

Refer to this Court's policy governing all sealed matters-Misc No. 05-45 (See Exhibit B).

9. Special Filing Requirements and Exceptions.

9.1 Special Filing Requirements

The documents listed below shall be presented for filing in the traditional manner on paper and accompanied by a disk or CD-ROM containing the document in PDF format:

Sealed (subject to policy on sealed matters - Misc No. 05-45 - Exhibit B)

Cases filed sealed by STATUTE (such as, Qui Tam Cases).

9.2 Mandatory Exceptions

The following is excluded from the Electronic Filing System and shall be filed solely on paper:

ALL GRAND JURY MATTERS:

The following documents are examples of grand jury matters:

- 1) Motion to Empanel Grand Jury and orders ruling on them;
- 2) Motions to Quash Grand Jury subpoenas and orders ruling on them;
- 3) Motions to Enforce Grand Jury subpoenas and orders ruling on them;
- 4) Motions for immunity and orders ruling on them;
- 5) Motions for appointment of counsel before a Grand Jury and orders ruling on them.

9.3 Social Security Administrative Transcripts shall be filed electronically by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

9.4 Original State Court Records presented in 28 U.S.C. 2254 cases shall be filed in the traditional manner on paper. Records received will be noted on the docket, however, will not be available for view electronically. State Court records are NOT part of this court's permanent case file and are returned to the appropriate State Court upon final disposition.

9.5 Transcripts of this Court (both civil and criminal) shall be filed electronically in PDF Format. The Judicial Conference has established a policy on electronic availability before making official transcripts of court proceedings electronically available to the general public. The policy establishes a procedure whereby counsel can request the redaction from the transcript of specific personal data identifiers before the transcript is made electronically available to the general public.

9.5.1 A party must file a Notice of Intent to Request Redaction of Specific Personal Data Identifiers within five business days of the filing of the official transcript by the court reporter. Note: If a party fails to request redaction of specific personal data identifiers within this time frame, the transcript will be made electronically available (remotely) without redaction. Neither the court nor court reporters will review the original transcript for specific personal data identifiers. A Notice of Intent to Request Redaction of Specific Personal Data Identifiers form is available on the court's website at <http://www.pawd.uscourts.gov>. (See Exhibit C).

If a party files a Notice of Intent to Request Redaction of Specific Personal Data Identifiers, the transcript will not be made remotely electronically available to the general public until the party submits a statement of redaction of specific personal data identifiers to the court reporter/transcriber and the redactions are made. Note: A copy of the officially transcribed transcript may be purchased from the court reporter/transcriber or the clerk's office during this time and will be available for viewing on the public terminals in the clerk's office.

Following the filing of a notice of Intent to Request Redaction of Specific Personal Identifiers, the parties have 21 CALENDAR days from the date the transcript is filed with the clerk, or longer IF ordered by the court, to submit a statement to the court reporter/transcriber indicating where the specific personal data identifiers appear in the transcript by page and line and how they are to be redacted. See 14.1 of these Procedures for Redacted Identifiers . The court reporter/transcriber shall have 7 CALENDAR days from the date of submission of the request for redaction of specific personal data identifiers to electronically file the redacted transcript. Note: If a party fails to submit the statement within this time frame, the transcript will be made electronically available without redaction of specific personal data identifiers.

10. Retention Requirements.

A document that is electronically filed and requires an original signature other than that of the Filing User must be maintained in paper form by counsel and/or the firm representing the party on whose behalf the document was filed until one year after all periods for appeals expire. Such papers in criminal cases shall be retained by the United States Attorney. On request of the court, said counsel must provide the original document for review.

11. Signatures.

The user login and password required to submit documents to the Electronic Filing System serve as the Filing User's signature on all electronic documents filed with the court. They serve as a signature for purposes of Fed.R.Civ.P.11, all other Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Local Rules of this court, and any other purpose for which a signature is required in connection with proceedings before the court.

Each document filed electronically must indicate in the caption that it has been electronically filed. An electronically filed document must include a signature block in compliance with Local Rule 5.1.1(B), and must set forth the name, address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and the attorney's Pennsylvania or other state bar identification number, if applicable. When listing the identification number, the state's

postal abbreviation shall be used as a prefix (e.g., PA12345, NY2243316). In addition, the name of the Filing User under whose login and password the document is submitted must be preceded by an "s/" and typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear. No Filing User or other person may knowingly permit or cause to permit a Filing User's password to be used by anyone other than an authorized agent of the Filing User. A document containing the signature of a defendant in a criminal case shall be electronically filed as a scanned document in PDF format that contains an image of the defendant's original signature. The Filing User is required to verify the readability of the scanned document before filing it electronically with the court.

A document requiring signatures of more than one party must be filed electronically either by: (1) submitting a scanned document containing all necessary signatures; (2) representing the consent of the other parties on the document; or (3) in any other manner approved by the court.

12. Service of Documents by Electronic Means.

12.1 Service of Process

Fed.R.Civ.P. 5(b) and Fed.R.Crim.P. 49(b) do not permit electronic service of process for purposes of obtaining personal jurisdiction, i.e., Rule 4 service. Therefore, service of process must be effected in the traditional manner.

12.2 Other Types of Service:

12.2.1 Filing User

Upon the electronic filing of a pleading or other document, the court's ECF System will automatically generate and send a Notice of Electronic Filing to all Filing Users associated with that case. Transmission of the Notice of Electronic Filing constitutes service of the filed document.

The Notice of Electronic Filing must include the time of filing, the name of the party and attorney filing the document, the type of document, the text of the docket entry, and an electronic link (hyperlink) to the filed document, allowing anyone receiving the notice by e-mail to retrieve the document automatically. If the Filing User becomes aware that the Notice of Electronic Filing was not transmitted successfully to a party, or that the notice is deficient, i.e. the electronic link to the document is defective, the filer shall serve the electronically filed document by e-mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or by first-class mail postage prepaid immediately upon notification of the deficiency of the Notice of Electronic Filing.

12.2.2 Individual who is not a Filing User

A Non-Filing User is entitled to receive a paper copy of any electronically filed document from the party making such filing. Service of such paper copy must be made according to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Local Rules of Court.

13. Technical Failures.

The clerk shall deem the court's Electronic Case Filing Web Site to be subject to a technical failure if the site is unable to accept filings continuously or intermittently for more than one hour occurring after 12:00 noon (Eastern Time) that day. If a Filing User experiences technical failure, the document may be submitted to the court that day in an alternative manner, provided that it is accompanied by an affidavit of the Filing User's failed attempts to file electronically at least two times in one hour increments after 12:00 noon. The following methods of filing are acceptable as a result of a technical failure:

- 13.1 via electronic mail in a PDF attachment, sent to the e-mail address for technical failures listed in the ECF User Manual;
- 13.2 in person, by bringing the document to the clerk's office on paper accompanied by a disk or CD-ROM which contains the document in PDF format;
- 13.3 Problems on the filer's end, such as phone line problems, problems with the filer's Internet Service Provider (ISP), or hardware or software issues, do not constitute a technical failure under these procedures nor excuse an untimely filing.

Should, however, a technical failure of the filer's equipment cause the filing party to miss a filing deadline, the filer shall electronically file, within 24 hours of failure, a motion for leave to file said document(s) out of time along with a completed "Verification of Technical Failure-Filer's equipment" (Exhibit D).

If filing said motion for leave electronically within 24 hours is impossible, the filing party must hand deliver the motion and verification to the Clerk's Office on paper accompanied by a disk or CD-ROM which contains the document(s) in PDF format OR by mailing same to the Clerk's Office and

postmarked accordingly, for filing. If leave is granted, the filer shall electronically file said document(s) forthwith. Service of motion and verification shall be made on all parties of record by filing party.

Counsel should be aware that the Court will be monitoring filers for abuse of this procedure.

The initial point of contact for a Filing User experiencing technical difficulty filing a document electronically shall be the court's ECF Help Desk at the toll free numbers listed in the ECF User Manual.

A Filing User who suffers prejudice as a result of a technical failure may seek appropriate relief from the court.

14. Public Access.

A person may retrieve information from the Electronic Filing System at the court's Internet site by obtaining a PACER login and password. A person who has PACER access may retrieve docket sheets and documents in all cases, except for social security cases, in which only participants in the case may retrieve certain documents. Any case or document under seal shall not be available to the public through electronic or any other means.

14.1 Sensitive Information

As the public may access certain case information over the Internet through the court's Electronic Filing System, sensitive information should not be included in any document filed with the court unless such inclusion is necessary and relevant to the case. In accordance with Local Rule 5.1.1(B), if sensitive information must be included, the following specific personal data identifiers must be partially redacted from the document, whether it is filed traditionally or electronically: Social Security numbers to the last four digits, financial account numbers to the last four digits, dates of birth to the year and the names of minor children to the initials.¹

Note: In criminal case documents only, home addresses also must be redacted to the city and state.

In compliance with the E-Government Act of 2002, a party wishing to file a document containing the specific personal data identifiers specified above must file a motion for leave to file the unredacted document or reference list under seal. If the motion to seal is granted, the party may file: 1) a sealed and otherwise identical document containing the unredacted personal identifiers; or 2) a reference list under

¹Documents in social security cases are excluded from the redaction requirement as they are not electronically available to the public over the Internet, pursuant to the privacy policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States

seal. The reference list shall contain the complete personal data identifier(s) and the redacted identifier(s) used in its (their) place in the filing. All references in the case to the redacted identifiers included in the reference list will be construed to refer to the corresponding complete personal data identifier.

In addition, caution must be exercised when filing documents that contain the following:

- 1) Personal identifying number, such as a driver's license number;
- 2) medical records, treatments and diagnosis;
- 3) employment history;
- 4) individual financial information; and
- 5) proprietary or trade secret information

Additional items for criminal cases only:

- 6) information regarding an individual's cooperation with the government;
- 7) information regarding the victim of any criminal activity;
- 8) national security information; and
- 9) sensitive security information as described in 49 U.S.C. Section 114(s).

Counsel is strongly urged to share this information with all clients so that an informed decision about the inclusion of certain materials may be made. If a redacted document is filed, it is the sole responsibility of counsel and the parties to be sure that pleadings and other papers comply with the rules and orders of this court requiring redaction of personal identifiers. The clerk will not review each filing for redaction.

15. "Hyperlinks - In order to preserve the integrity of the court record, attorneys wishing to insert hyperlinks in court filings shall continue to use the traditional citation method for the cited authority, in addition to the hyperlink. The Judiciary's policy on hyperlinks is that a hyperlink contained in a filing is no more than a convenient mechanism for accessing material cited in the document. A hyperlink reference is extraneous to any filed document and is not part of the court's record."

Exhibit A

Electronic Case Filing (ECF) attorney registration

To request an Electronic Case Filing (ECF) account from the United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, complete the registration form, print a hard copy, sign it, and mail it to the Clerk's Office at the address provided. The registration form is available in WordPerfect, Word format or PDF format.

Credit Card Information

A \$5.00 minimum requirement is required. The following credit cards will be accepted: American Express, Diners Club, Discover, Master Card, Visa. Credit Cards will not be accepted for criminal bond payments, criminal fine or restitution payments, or payments made into the registry of the Court. To update or change credit card information, please submit your request in writing to the address provided, Attention: Finance Department.

Instructions:

Complete this form to request an Electronic Case Filing (ECF) account from the United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania. Complete the form (must be typed), sign it, and mail it to U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, Attention: CM/ECF Registrar, P.O. Box 1805, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

For ECF Registration assistance on please contact Rodger Leasure, Information Systems Manager at (412) 208-7551.

4/19/05

United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
ECF REGISTRATION FORM

This form shall be used to register as a Filing User for the court's Electronic Case Files (ECF) system. A Filing User may file documents with the court through the court's ECF web site, and view and retrieve docket sheets and case documents electronically. Registration as a Filing User also serves as your consent to electronic service of all documents through the court's transmission facilities in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Please complete the following information to register for ECF (THIS FORM MUST BE TYPED)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

PA or other State Bar ID: _____ (e.g. PA12345, NY22316)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: _____ (for security purposes)

E-Mail Address(es) for Electronic Service: _____

I certify that (choose one):

- ☐ I have successfully completed the computer base training (CBT) on the court's web site at:
(www.pawd.uscourts.gov).
- ☐ I am registered for ECF in another court; provide your Login Name: _____
- ☐ I have completed the hands on training provided by the U.S. District Court.

Optional: Registering with a credit card number will allow you to electronically file initial pleadings and other documents requiring a filing fee. (This information shall be kept confidential.)

Credit Card Type: _____ Account #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

3 or 4 digit Card I.D. Number from back of card: _____

Name on credit card billing address: _____

(Street, City, State, and Zip code)

Signature/Date _____

Mail to:

U.S. District Court ECF Registration Room 309, U.S. P.O. & Ctse. Bldg., Seventh Avenue & Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219

By signing this form, you agree to abide by all Court rules, orders, policies and procedures governing the use of the electronic filing system. You also consent to service by electronic means in the circumstances permitted under those rules, orders, policies and procedures. You understand that the combination of user id and password will serve as the signature of the attorney filing the documents pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Local Rules of this court. And, as a participating attorney, you agree to protect the security of your password and immediately notify the court if you suspect the password has been compromised. Also, as a participating attorney, you will be responsible for updating your user account for any changes in any personal data, such as name, e-mail address, firm address, telephone number, etc., and will update the appropriate data within the ECF system (under Utilities, Maintaining Your Account). Please visit the PACER web site at <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov> to establish a PACER account if you do not already have one.

Exhibit B

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:
CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTIVE ORDERS IN CIVIL MATTERS

ORDER

AND NOW, this 27th day of January 2005, as APPROVED by the Board of Judges on January 26, 2005,

It is hereby ORDERED that effective July 1, 2005, any provision in a Confidentiality or Protective Order filed prior to June 30, 2005 that permits the parties to designate documents as confidential and file said documents with the Court under seal is NULL and VOID.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that for Confidentiality or Protective Orders filed on or after July 1, 2005, the Court will not recognize any provision of said orders which allow for the automatic sealing of documents that are filed with the Court.

On or after July 1, 2005, parties wishing to file documents under seal must obtain prior leave of Court for each document that is requested to be filed under seal.

Donetta W. Ambrose
Chief U.S. District Judge

EXHIBIT C

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Plaintiff(s)

vs

Defendant(s)

)
} Case No. _____
}
}

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO REQUEST REDACTION OF SPECIFIC PERSONAL DATA IDENTIFIERS

Notice is hereby given that a statement of redaction of specific personal data identifiers will be submitted to the court reporter/transcriber within 21 days from the filing of the transcript with the clerk.

s/ _____

ID Bar Number _____
Attorney for (Plaintiff/Defendant)
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx
E-mail: xxx@xxx.xxx

Date: _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on _____, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following: _____, and I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the following non CM/ECF participants _____.

s/ _____

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Plaintiff

Case No.

vs

Defendant

Verification of Technical Failure Filer's Equipment

Please take notice that [Plaintiff/Defendant, Name of Party] was unable to file [Title of Document] in timely manner because of technical difficulties. The deadline for filing the [Title of Document] was [Filing Deadline Date]. The reason(s) that I was unable to file the [Title of Document] in a timely manner and the good faith efforts I made prior to the filing deadline to both file in a timely manner and to inform the Court and the other parties that I could not do so are set forth below.

[Statement of reasons and good faith efforts to file and to inform (including dates and times)]

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Respectfully submitted,

s [Name of Registrant]
ID Bar Number
Attorney for (Plaintiff/Defendant)
Address
City, State, Zip Code
Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx
E-mail: xxx@xxx.xxx